

Meet World's Oldest Person

Orpha Nusbaum — at 112, the world's oldest living person — was born a year before Custer made his last stand and 10 years after the Civil War ended. Ulysses S. Grant was President then — and there were no cars, telephones or airplanes.

And Orpha says the "good old days" really WERE the good old days!!
"Nothing equals the good old days. And for me, they were 100 years ago,"



16-YEAR-OLD Orpha with her mother and father in 1891.



NEWLYWED Orpha with her husband John Mishler, a minister, in undated photo.

Orpha told The ENQUIRER.

"Life was more simple and relaxed then, before the turn of the century.

"We weren't burdened with income taxes, big government or technology; no electric bills to pay, no cars to repair, no appliances to fix. Average people made less than \$1,000 a year, but lived well.

"Without television, telephones or radio, our world was so peaceful and small!"

Orpha was born near Middlebury, Ind., Aug. 13, 1875.

"We grew our own food, raised poultry and shopped at the general store," she said.

"We never dreamed of today's gigantic neon-lit supermarkets where you buy everything wrapped in Styrofoam or packed in plastic. One hundred years ago fresh food was the only food."

School was taught in a one-room schoolhouse — and reading, writing and arithmetic were the important subjects.

"Our teacher read to us from the Bible and an original first edition of Mark Twain's 'Huckleberry Finn,'" remembered Orpha.

"One day she read us a newspaper story about how the infamous bank and train robber Jesse James was killed in Missouri.

"As the teacher talked about Jesse James I looked out the window and saw a wagon train headed west.

"I used to listen to Civil War veterans argue about the war. They predicted the Civil War would be the last war Americans would ever fight.

"I saw my first car about the turn of the century. It was funny to see that weird contraption rumble down Main Street in a swirl of dust! Kids were running behind it, dogs were



"IF I COULD LIVE MY LIFE OVER, I wouldn't change a thing!" declares Orpha Nusbaum.

**'Nothing Equals the Good Old Days . . .
Our World Was So Peaceful & Small!'**

widowed 44 years later. In 1947 she married Frank Nusbaum, who died and a book of her poems was published in 1969.



16-YEAR-OLD Orpha with her mother and father in 1891.



NEWLYWED Orpha with her husband John Mishler, a minister, in undated photo.



80-YEAR-OLD Orpha with her second husband Frank Nusbaum in 1956.

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Others may claim to have more years under their belt than Orpha, but she's the oldest person whose birth date is officially verified, says Alex Reid, deputy editor of the Guinness Book of Records, which will list Orpha in its next edition.

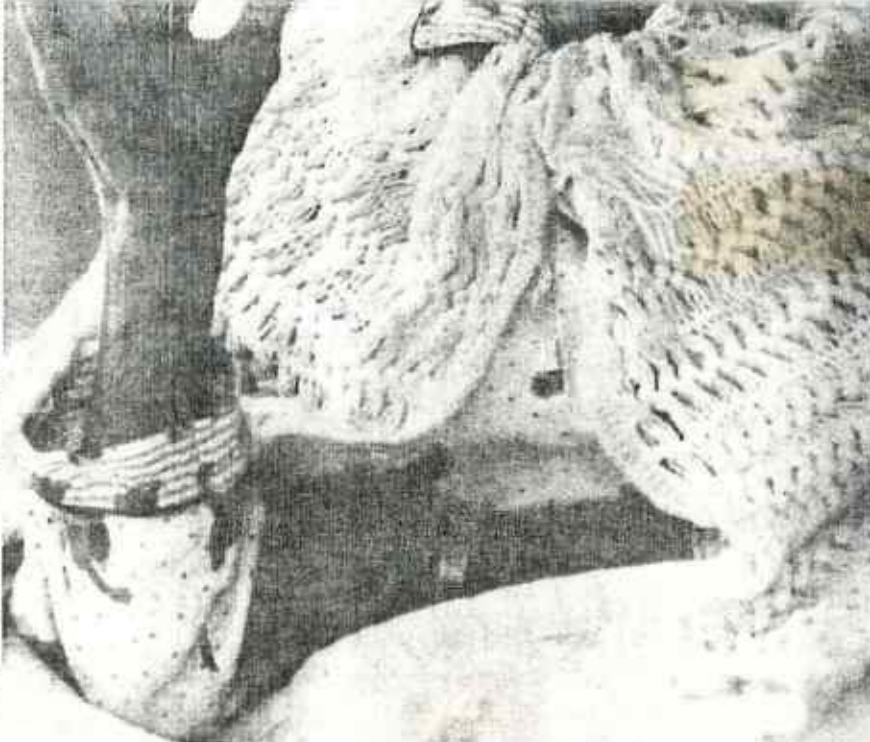
"Every day I wake up I thank God that I'm alive," said Orpha. "And I look forward to new experiences.

"I've lived so long because I always honored my mother and father and I believe in God.

"If ENQUIRER readers want to live a long life, they should eat correctly.

"I eat a lot of fresh fruit. I especially like coffee, soup and bananas with milk. And I don't eat a lot of meat."

Orpha married John Mishler, a minister, at age 22 in 1897. She was



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widowed 44 years later. In 1947 she married Frank Nusbaum, who died in 1959. Though she never had children of her own, she had stepchildren — and today she has dozens of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Orpha, a former schoolteacher, says, "I stayed healthy for over 90 years without ever going to a doctor."

At 92 she started writing poetry

and a book of her poems was published in 1969.

At 108, Orpha suffered a stroke and moved to a nursing home where she lives now.

"Perhaps I have lived so long to give me a chance to pray for others.

"If I could live my life over, I wouldn't change a thing!" she declared.

— MICHAEL CASSELS



Hush-Hush Mission

The bartender was bragging about his sister who had disguised herself and joined the Army.

"But wait a minute," a customer interrupted. "She'll have to dress with the boys and shower with the boys, won't she?"

"Yes," the bartender admitted.

"Well, won't they find out then?"

The bartender shrugged and continued to polish the glasses. "Who'll tell?"

— Nebraska Smoke-Eater